

CLAIMS

I claim:

1        1.    A water cooler comprising:

2        (a)   a housing;

3        (b)   a water source;

4        (c)   at least one spigot in said housing fed by said  
5 water source;

6        (d)   a drip tray in said housing below said at least  
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a  
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor;

9        (e)   a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet  
10 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose  
11 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an  
12 outlet hose;

13       (f)   a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose; and

14       (g)   a control circuit with a sensor for activating  
15 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1        2.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes a filter to prevent passage of particles of a  
3 predetermined and larger size into said pump.

1        3.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drain  
2 hole is composed of a plurality of small holes sized to  
3 prevent passage of particles of a predetermined and larger  
4 size through said drain hole.

1           4.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drip tray  
2 includes a strainer covering said open top.

1           5.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said drip tray  
2 is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is long  
3 enough to permit said removal without disconnecting said  
4 inlet hose.

1           6.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid  
3 for drainage.

1           7.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said pump is  
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said  
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.

1           8.    The water cooler of claim 1 wherein said pump is a  
2 peristaltic pump or a diaphragm pump.

1           9.    A water cooler comprising:

2           (a) a housing;

3           (b) a water source;

4           (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said  
5 water source;

6           (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least  
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a  
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor;

9           (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet  
10 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose  
11 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an

12 outlet hose, said pump being a peristaltic pump or a  
13 diaphragm pump;

14 (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose;

15 (g) an in-line filter in said inlet hose to prevent  
16 passage of particles of a predetermined and larger size into  
17 said pump; and

18 (h) a control circuit with a sensor for activating  
19 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1 10. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said drip tray  
2 includes a strainer covering said open top.

1 11. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said drip tray  
2 is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is long  
3 enough to permit said removal without disconnecting said  
4 inlet hose.

1 12. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid  
3 for drainage.

1 13. The water cooler of claim 9 wherein said pump is  
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said  
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.

1 14. A water cooler comprising:

2 (a) a housing;

3 (b) a water source;

4 (c) at least one spigot in said housing fed by said  
5 water source;

6           (d) a drip tray in said housing below said at least  
7 one spigot, said drip tray including a receptacle having a  
8 floor, walls, open top, and a drain hole in said floor, said  
9 drain hole being comprised of a plurality of small holes,  
10 said small holes being sized to prevent passage of particles  
11 of a predetermined and larger size through said drain hole;

12           (e) a pump having an inlet and outlet, said inlet  
13 operatively connected to said drain hole by an inlet hose  
14 and said outlet operatively connected to a drain by an  
15 outlet hose, said pump being a peristaltic pump or a  
16 diaphragm pump;

17           (f) a pressure relief vent in said inlet hose; and

18           (g) a control circuit with a sensor for activating  
19 said pump when liquid is present in said inlet hose.

1           15. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said drip  
2 tray includes a strainer covering said open top.

1           16. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said drip  
2 tray is removable from said housing and said inlet hose is  
3 long enough to permit said removal without disconnecting  
4 said inlet hose.

1           17. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said inlet  
2 hose includes an access point for another source of liquid  
3 for drainage.

1           18. The water cooler of claim 14 wherein said pump is  
2 activated for a predetermined period of time after said  
3 sensor no longer detects the presence of liquid.